

Introduction

During artifact analysis a small group was placed in a miscellaneous, intrusive category since they lay outside the mainstream based on date of manufacture, material used, or function. Thirty-eight specimens appear to be naturally occurring objects, most of which were catalogued for further analysis after having been retrieved from dredge spoils during excavation and screening. These include numerous small fish bones, several sediment samples, and a sample of local water-worn gravels. These intrusive objects are not essential to the identification of the wreck, though they have been recorded, recovered and remain with the collection.

Of more interest are the thirty-nine intrusive artifacts that post-date the early eighteenth-century assemblage. Their introduction and presence likely occurred during periods of inlet migration and intense storm driven currents when the shipwreck site was open to the elements due to scouring (McNinch 2005). The same process that removed sediment from the site also mobilized cultural debris. This waterborne debris, which might have been refuse from vessels under sail but just as likely washed from shore during storms, came to rest at 31CR314 because its exposed elements created a catchment area. Modern sand fence and a golf ball represent this process during recent scouring events, while cultural material dating to earlier periods may indicate when the shipwreck was naturally uncovered some years after its loss. Another class of artifacts, fishing gear has been collected from the site and indicates periods of exposed wreckage that was substantial enough to encourage finfish congregation and subsequent human interest. All gear related to fishing is very recent in origin coinciding with exposure during the last several decades.

Post-Wreck Cultural Artifacts – Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century

Remnants of two glass bottles, a ceramic bottle, a tin can, and a cannon ball fall into this classification. Their presence may indicate a period in the mid to late nineteenth century or early twentieth when the inlet channel passed over the shipwreck. As more post-wreck materials are recovered and analyzed they will continue to provide clues related to historic inlet movement and catastrophic storm events that have affected shipwreck site 31CR314 in the past.

A glass bottleneck and associated shards were of olive green glass (5Y 5/8 Munsell). They represent a blown neck with applied and tooled lip and string rim (Figure 1). The lip treatment on this bottle puts its manufacture from late 1820s to early 1870s (Jones 1986:94), however, their use continued into the twentieth century.